

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 206147
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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APPROVED BY S/S-O:RPERITO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 206147

NODIS

FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOL RPT BONN 14137 ACTION SECSTATE 29 AUG 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T BONN 14137

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1,2,3

TAGS: PARM GW SF

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN WEAPONS PROGRAM

REFS: (A) BONN 13580; (B) STATE 195279

1. THE CHANCELLERY HAS REQUESTED COMMENTS FROM THE USG CONCERNING THE WASHINGTON POST AND NEW YORK TIMES STORIES CONCERNING EFFORTS TO FORESTALL A SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR TEST. HAUBER OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE ARMS CONTROL DIVISION, WHO WAS PRESENT DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S MEETINGS WITH VAN WELL ON THIS SUBJECT, TOLD US HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE CHANCELLERY TO REQUEST CLARIFICATION ON
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THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE AMBASSADOR ON AUGUST 18 (BASED ON REFTEL B) THAT "OUR INFORMATION DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT AN ACTUAL TEST IS IMMINENT" AND THE STATEMENT BY DAVID BINDER IN THE NEW YORK TIMES THAT "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS CONVINCED

THAT IT HEADED OFF THE IMMINENT DETONATION OF AN
ATOMIC DEVICE...."

B. THE INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE CAUTIOUS
LANGUAGE IN THE AMBASSADOR'S AUGUST 18 APPROACH ("A
FACILITY WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE MANY OF THE ESSENTIAL
CHARACTERISTICS OF AN UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TEST SITE")
AND THE IMPLICATIONS IN THE PRESS THAT THE SITE WAS
DEFINITELY FOR UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS.

C. REPORTS WHICH THE CHANCELLERY HAD SEEN TO THE
EFFECT THAT THE USG HAD SHOWN FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
US SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE TEST SITE. (HAUBER HAD
THE IMPRESSION THAT SUCH REPORTS HAD BEEN IN THE PRESS,
BUT HE WAS UNABLE TO STATE DEFINITELY TO WHAT REPORTS
THE CHANCELLERY WAS REFERRING.)

2. HAUBER SUMMARIZED THAT THE FRG WOULD APPRECIATE
HAVING (A) INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THE USG IS CERTAIN
THAT THE SITE WAS DEFINITELY FOR UNDERGROUND TESTS;
(B) AN OFFICIAL READING FROM THE USG ON HOW IMMINENT THE
TEST REALLY WAS; AND (C) USG COMMENTS ON THE REPORTS
MENTIONED IN 1.C., ABOVE, CONCERNING THE SHARING OF US
SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHY WITH THE GOF.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR RESPONDING TO THE
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FRG REQUEST.
MEEHAN

UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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